



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Washington Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Closure of Kummer Bridge

Sacramento, CA – Sandy K. Baruah, Acting Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses economically impacted by the closure of State Route 169 Kummer Bridge across the Green River.

The declaration covers **King County** and the surrounding counties of **Chelan, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, Snohomish** and **Yakima**.

SBA's disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest loans available to help small businesses and most, private, non-profit organizations meet financial needs caused by the disaster. "We look forward to working with small business owners who were affected by the bridge closure to make SBA disaster loans available to their small businesses," said Acting Administrator Baruah.

Baruah's action responded to a request received on January 8, 2009 from Governor Christine Gregoire. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to declare this disaster.

SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$2 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the bridge closure to help overcome the temporary financial impacts they are experiencing," said Judd.

Disaster loan information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

Applicants may also apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **October 13, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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